

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicants submit that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on August 22, 2006. During the Interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the differences between the arc-shaped sliding door 50 recited in claims 1 and 11 and the leader block 16 taught in the cited reference, LeNoue. The Examiner asserted that the leader block 16 of LeNoue corresponds to the arc-shaped door as claimed, because leader block 16 slides into the case prior to being snapped into a position to close the door, and slides out of the case when the leader block is being removed from the case. Although Applicant disagrees with the assertion of the Examiner, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 11 in order to further clarify the invention and to expedite prosecution of the application.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that LeNoue or Maehara do not teach or suggest individually or in combination "an arc shaped door slidably disposed within the case and which is operative to move in an open and closed position while within the case, and which is operative to block an opening for pulling out the recording tape," as recited in claim 1 and analogously claimed in claim 11.

Applicant also submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references that “wherein at least one of a border portion between the peripheral wall and the ceiling plate and a border portion between the peripheral wall and the floor plate is thinner than a thickness of the peripheral wall.” LeNoue does not teach, disclose or suggest that the grooves 74 are formed at a **border portion** between the peripheral wall and the ceiling plate or at a border portion between the peripheral wall and the floor. In fact, LeNoue teaches that the groove 74 is adjacent the strengthening rib 72, and may extend along at least part of the length of the strengthening rib 72, and preferably along substantially the entire length of the strengthening rib 72. There is absolutely no teaching that the groove 74 is located at the **border** between the peripheral wall and the ceiling plate or floor plate. The Examiner’s application of LeNoue to this limitation is based on impermissible hindsight reasoning, and the lack of this express teaching in the reference would not motivate a skilled artisan to use LeNoue in such a manner. Maehara fails to cure the deficiency of LeNoue.

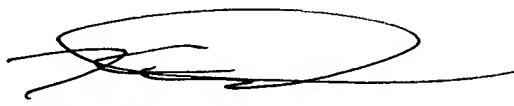
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/699,799
Attorney Docket No. Q77992

Art Unit No. 3654

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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